Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-87-237
Thursday
10 December 1987

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Cuba

Castro Discusses Water Supply at PCC Assembly

FL082327 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 87

[Dialogue between President Fidel Castro and unidentified delegates during 27 November sessions of the Havana City Provincial PCC Assembly held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Delegate] We must state this afternoon that we have fulfilled our commitment. The connection has been made in the pipeline bringing water to Havana from the wells network north of Catalina de Guines to the junction of point A on Fourth Street near Guanabacoa. [applause] We must also report that El Gato project has been achieved through the huge efforts of the builders and organizations that have undertaken this task as their own. [passage omitted]

[Speaker] The tanks in this model [video shows man presenting Castro with scale model of El Gato aqueduct], Commander, supply water at peak times; that is, at dinner time, etc, when everybody is home.

[Castro] You mean because there is more demand then and the water supply diminishes.

[Speaker] Water demand goes up because everybody goes home to take a bath and to cook.

[Castro] Each tank is 40,000 cubic meters?

[Speaker] Thirty thousand each. Sixty thousand between the two.

[Castro] Is that enough for one meal? [laughter]

[Speaker] No, there's also El Gato. This is in addition to what comes through the pipeline. That is, it delivers...

[Castro, interrupting] This is extra.

[Speaker] That's additional at peak times.

[Castro] Have you explained the aqueduct to the public? What are you going to do next?

[Speaker] Actually, Commander, the explanation has been very general, but there hasn't been a detailed technical explanation.

[Castro] What do you think about it as an engineering project?

[Speaker] Commander, in our analysis of hydraulic works, this is the most important aqueduct ever built in our country, and the most complex, too. We have one aqueduct built in the 19th century.

[Castro] The most important of all times?

[Speaker] No, no, since the 19th century. There's the aqueduct in [words indistinct] which was built 110 years ago. It's a very important work, made with another type of technology.

[Castro] How much water does that one handle?

[Speaker] It handles 90 million [cubic meters] a year.

[Castro] Almost as much as this one.

[Speaker] This one handles 100 [cubic meters]. But the other uses gravity; it does not consume energy. It delivers the water up to Old Havana, to the famous El Chorro alleyway.

[Castro] Tell me one thing: What was the party's role in the construction of that aqueduct?

[Speaker] Well, then...[laughter]

[Castro] There was no party!

[Speaker, laughing] No, I don't know, I don't think so.

[Castro] Well, the party had a role to play in this one in order to finish it 6 months ahead of schedule. Six months, isn't it? Six months if finished on schedule. Wait, wait. You can tell me the schedule said July 1988; but when were projects finished here?

[Speaker] No, no, it would have taken scores of years.

[Castro] This is a new phenomenon. A project of this kind has been built ahead of schedule. We have had a really big reason to do it. We have suffered an uncommon drought this year, a widespread and a long-lasting drought. And now we have 90 million [cubic meters]. Isn't the capacity 90 [million] yet? Fifty million, then.

[Speaker] A hundred million now.

[Castro] Right now. Remember what we talked about. We have to explain to the public. We don't want them thinking they have all the water the city needs right away. We have to explain they can't use it all. It must be rationed. We have to work with a water reserve. If we have 100 [million cubic meters] available, we must use 50 or 60, to ease the situation.

We don't know if next year will be dry. The other basins are at low levels. We can't use up all this water. What if we have another dry year? We'd better have a reserve. Sixty million [cubic meters] is a good amount. I was telling you that the public has to be told. We don't want them to be so happy about having the aqueduct that they

think all water problems are solved and we can start wasting water. There's other important news; the plant this year is going to produce around 70,000 metered meters.

We were saying the other day three times more water is used when there are no meters. Isn't that so? So, it's very important the press and the party cadres know how to explain this to the public. We don't want them to think that suddenly we have the great flood again here because of this dam. This is a big step forward, a big effort. This project came just when we needed it. What is the deficit of the other basins?

[Speaker] At this time we have 1 cubic meter per second [words indistinct] for the balance of irrigation of the two provinces. For the year 2015, we will have 249 million...

[Castro] Yes, but how many were we supplying a day?

[Speaker] Oh, you mean now, Commander?

[Castro] No, before now. When we reached the maximum, 1,200.

[Speaker] It's 1,186,000 cubic meters a day. We are now supplying 700,000.

[Castro] Seven hundred thousand. And with this one?

[Speaker] With this one we will reach 900,000. That is, we have half the deficit.

[Castro] Right. But we have to explain that thoroughly. [passage omitted]

[Delegate] The workers have given a radical response in the most recent assemblies to this problem of absenteeism. Very important agreements were reached by which promotions are out of the question for comrades who have high absenteeism. The situation was that workers involved in the production of color television sets were being promoted according to the scale, but many of them had high absenteeism.

[Castro] Perhaps we will have to modify the scale, so the more capable people are placed.

[Delegate] As long as this doesn't happen at least...

[Castro, interrupting] That's one of the things we have to look into. [applause] What are you going to produce in that industry? How many color sets?

[Delegate] We plan 100,000 color sets.

[Castro] What are the TV sets like? I mean, so far, are you optimistic about the quality of the sets?

[Delegate] Yes, Commander, the television set is better. That is what we can say. How much better? It's going to be widely accepted. However, we are not yet satisfied with what has been achieved so far.

[Castro] But you are going to produce 40,000 [sets] next year. How many next year?

[Delegate] We'll build 45,000 next year.

[Castro] Well, the first sets so far we have distributed-...[corrects himself] Or were these the Soviet-made which came directly? The ones we distributed among the hospitals, schools? The ones we sent to Caimanera and Isle of Youth? What reports do you have?

[Delegate] The reports are good. The repair rate is once a year; that is, 1,700 hours. They break down once a year. If we compare that with the Caribe...

[Castro, interrupting] How much does it cost to fix them? Do they break down often? A spare part, the tube, what?

[Delegate] No, they are simple repairs. We have to fix the components, but they are mechanical parts.

[Castro] Then we will be able to distribute a few television sets next year. My idea is to do it by factories. To start distributing them when there are enough as we did with the black and white sets. There weren't enough. After giving them to schools, hospitals, workers' shelters, all that. Can you install a videocassette recorder with those?

[Delegate] Yes.

[Castro] Can we install a VCR in the future?

[Delegate] We can do it right now.

[Casstro] Right now?

[Delegate] Right now.

[Castro] You don't say! So, you are going to produce 100,000 television sets. What else?

[Delegate] We are going to produce 350,000 keyboards.

[Castro] Look what can be done with a collective that used to be demoralized as a consequence of all the mistakes. We are entering a new stage, are we not? The stage of electronics, order, discipline, quality. In sum, the end of all the shoddy work, the contradictions unworthy of a socialist state such as the ones created at the centers. We can't use the centers anymore because the hucksters don't want the students to train there because it's to their disadvantage. We'll be resolving all these contradictions that have emerged.

That's good, very good. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Welcomes CEMA Monetary Delegates
FL091254 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the chiefs of the delegations of CEMA-member countries, who are participating in the 48th meeting of the Permanent CEMA Commission for Monetary and Financial Affairs.

In his welcoming remarks, Carlos Rafael expressed Cuba's satisfaction in hosting the CEMA meeting, which is being held on that organization's 25th anniversary. On behalf of his colleagues, Comrade B. Gostev, Soviet finance minister and chief of the Soviet delegation, expressed his appreciation for Cuba's willingness to host this working session.

Esquivel Opens Meeting
FL090355 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Antonio Esquivel, vice president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, today at the Palace of Conventions presided over the opening of the 48th meeting of the CEMA Permanent Commission on Monetary and Financial Affairs.

In the meeting, Rodrigo Garcia Leon, minister president of the State Committee for Finance, reaffirmed the Cuban commitment to work seriously and consistently in all tasks. He added that the values and will of men and the guidance of our party are elements capable of overcoming difficulties and developing the on-going building of communism.

Ambassador Says Guyanese Ties Remain Strong
FL091154 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Cuba says its ties with Guyana remain strong despite the improvement of relations between Georgetown and Washington.

The statement was made by the Cuban envoy to Guyana, Mr Lazaro Cabezas, to newsmen in Georgetown yesterday. He said there was no change in Cuba-Guyana relations under President Desmond Hoyte compared to what existed during the regime of the late president, Forbes Burnham.

Raul Castro Visits Santiago de Cuba Sites
FL092054 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has just completed a tour to inspect the progress of the construction projects here in Santiago de Cuba which will support the activities of the Fourth PCC Congress in 1990. He was accompanied, as usual, by Esteban Lazo, member of the PCC Politburo and first secretary of this province.

Raul began his tour at a studio where he viewed the scale model of the sculpture which will be located at the Antonio Maceo Revolution Square. The PCC second secretary then visited the area where the Revolution Square and the main theater are being built. The planners briefed him extensively on their construction goals for both projects and on their commitment to complete these in time for the PCC congress in 1990.

During his tour of these important projects, Raul also visited the hydroponic center next to the Antonio Maceo Vocational School. He received an extensive report on the implementation and development of this program to increase the vegetable production and food supply for our population.

Raul's visit to Santiago de Cuba is a new incentive for the children of the revolution in their serious determination to fulfill all their commitments to mark the 35th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks and the Fourth PCC Congress.

Haiti

CNG Reschedules Elections for 17 January
FI101148 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The National [Government] Council [CNG] on Haiti has announced that the elections which were cancelled on November 29th will now be held on January 17. Voters will go to the polls to elect a new president, a new parliament, and a city council.

Groups Refuse To Participate in Elections
FL091717 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] In a communique from three organizations—the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN], the Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], and the National Concerted Action Front [FNC]—these organizations declare that they will not participate in any elections under the provisional National Government Council [CNG].

The nation is going through a somber moment. In view of this terrible situation, which is steadily deteriorating daily and plunging the country deeper and deeper into an unprecedented crisis, the parties and three organizations signing this note have stopped thinking about elections in order to defend the greater interests of the nation. Therefore, they have decided to quickly join forces in order to find a reasonable solution, a dignified solution, to the present serious problem in Haiti.

The many people who were assassinated on Sunday, 29 November, just because they were going to vote for a peaceable change to democracy and social justice; the lack of any reproach against the guilty parties; and the removal of the members of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], which is an act that fails to respect the Haitian Constitution, have led public opinion—both domestic and international—to condemn the CNG.

Confusion and anxiety currently prevail in Haiti where the political situation is blocked.

We also want to thank and congratulate the commercial and industrial sectors, small artisans, popular masses, democratic and union organizations, and the Haitian people in general who (?tried) to resist the maneuvers and all the different solicitations on the part of the authorities. These people were able to ensure the success of the strike, despite all the authorities' maneuvers.

Straight off, we affirm our determination to not take part in any election that might be organized under the control of the current CNG.

We have also decided to concern ourselves only with the higher interests of the nation. Thus, we were able to get together and decided to continue working together permanently so we can follow the evolution of the crisis and, as time goes on, make proposals to the nation for a concrete alternative, a reasonable alternative, to guarantee a peaceful, harmonious transition in the direction of democracy and in respect for the Constitution.

That was a joint communique from the PAIN, MIDH, and FNC.

Situation Discussed at Socialist Meeting
FL090305 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] There is a news report concerning Haiti from Caracas, Venezuela. The vice president of the Socialist International, a Venezuelan named Carlos Andres Perez, said yesterday, 7 December, that all the continent's democratic parties should pass a series of categorical resolutions condemning and holding the Haitian provisional government responsible for the postponement of elections in Haiti.

During a meeting between Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and the members of the committee of the Socialist International for Latin America and the Caribbean, Perez said the situation in Haiti was very critical and they could not pretend not to notice and fail to assume their responsibilities.

He said [words indistinct] the OAS and the United Nations should appeal to the ruling junta in Haiti to begin and carry through to the end an electoral process before the end of 1987.

The meeting of the Socialist International began yesterday in Caracas. Important political leaders from some 60 parties from all over the world that are members of that organization are attending the meeting. The main topics of that meeting will be the situations in Chile, Paraguay, and Haiti, and the problem of the debts of those countries and their positions [words indistinct] in the area on economic affairs.

Dominican Rights Official on Recent Arrests
FL092130 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The situation of thousands of our compatriots in the Dominican Republic appears to be very serious and has been causing much anxiety these last few days.

We received yesterday the statements of a citizen of the Dominican Republic who works with the Center for Integral Human Promotion [Centro de Promocion Humana Integral—in Spanish]. This center works with Haitians, especially in areas where sugar refineries are located in Cibao, in the center of the Dominican Republic. You are now going to hear the statements, in Spanish, on the fate of the Haitians, on what our brethern are going through in the Dominican Republic.

[Begin recording of unidentified woman, in Spanish] Last Friday a very brutal repression began in the sugar refineries. Just imagine! They began to take the Haitians out of their houses at 0300, breaking the locks, breaking down the doors, and stealing all their belongings. The police carted away all their work tools and the few little things that the Haitians have in their houses.

But that's not all! The police also raped a few women in the sugar refineries; and then, taking advantage of the opportunity, other people in the same community—other petty thieves and rogues—took advantage of the situation and went and sacked the Haitians. Many of the Haitians are imprisoned in the fortress in Mao, where they are under arrest, and also in the San Luis fortress here in Santiago, in order to send them to the eastern area of the Dominican Republic to work. The sugarcane harvest has started in the east, in La Romana, and they have no manpower. So they are rounding up Haitians.

But as the Haitians say, if they were asked decently to go, they would go. The problem is they take them any old way using force and violence. And that's not all! They bang on their doors at 0300, such an inappropriate time! They even carted Haitians off stark naked. They wouldn't even let them get dressed. This is happening to women too. Women are being submitted to many violations, to much abuse, both physical and verbal.

Right now, the Committee of Solidarity With Haiti and we of the center are taking certain steps, especially vis-a-vis the police, and denouncing this to the press. Two documents giving an account of the situation have been drawn up and these documents have been delivered

to the authorities. Because with all this, the police major in Mao, Valverde Province says that the police are following orders from the sugarmill owners but the sugarmill owners—that is, the State Sugar Council—have no contract.

In any case, they are saying in the press that these Haitians have to work for them because they came here on a contract. But that is false, especially in the Cibao area. The Haitians do not come here on a contract. The contract of those who did come on one expired some 10 years ago. They are people who have been here for a long time. So that is the situation, generally speaking. [end recording] [passage omitted of Creole translation of above]

FNC at OAS To Report on Violent Events

FL092156 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The National Concerted Action Front [FNC] informs the public in general and the people who are spreading lies about it, in particular, that a three-member FNC delegation headed by attorney (Moyse Senatus), who is a member of the FNC's legal section, left Port-au-Prince aboard a Pan-American Airlines flight at approximately 1000 on Sunday 6 December. The delegation was on its way to Washington following a short stopover in Miami. The purpose of the trip was to give the members of the OAS the true version of the events of 28 and 29 November 1987 and to counter a certain kind of propaganda from the National Government Council, which is trying to evade its responsibility in the massacres of 28 and 29 November 1987.

Consequently, the FNC reserves the right to undertake legal action against all those seeking to spread, through radio and television, a number of vile reports that are not at all in keeping with the FNC's objectives.

The FNC's initiative falls within the framework of the struggle for democracy in Haiti via-a-vis a government holding many trumps in its hand—millions of dollars, many heavy weapons, and means of transportation enabling them to go wherever they want and do whatever they want.

Nevertheless, despite its limited means, the FNC was at the United Nations as an observer, last 25 September, with a dossier, when the president of the CNG delivered his message before the UN General Assembly.

The FNC advises that the battle for liberation must be waged wherever there is discussion and debate in connection with Haiti, both inside Haiti and abroad, the way Haitian patriots desire and demand.

The FNC reasserts its policy of struggling so the Haitian people can be sovereign in their own country and make their own decisions as to their future. The FNC is also struggling for nonintervention by foreign governments in Haitian affairs.

Haiti is still a sovereign nation, despite its poverty and despite its location, in the middle of the Americas. The FNC once again condemns the criminal acts of 29 November 1987 and their civilian and military perpetrators.

Long live the Constitution of 1987! Long live the Provisional Electoral Council! Long live democracy in Haiti!

Caribbean Leaders To Hold Talks With Namphy

FL100008 Bridgetown CANA in English 2223 GMT 9 Dec 87

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston Jamaica, Dec 9, CANA—Five Caribbean leaders fly to Haiti on Thursday for talks with the head of the country's military-led government, Gen. Henri Namphy, over aborted general elections and plans by the military to hold a new poll, the Jamaica Government announced on Wednesday.

The group is to be headed by the Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, and includes St Lucia's John Compton, James Mitchell of St Vincent, Henry Eman of Aruba, and Dom Martina of the Netherland Antilles, the government said. The same group, excluding Mitchell, who sent a representative, met in Miami last week at Seaga's initiative and pledged to assist Haiti in whatever way possible to hold new elections.

A planned November 29 poll was called off by Haiti's independent electoral council when gunmen opened fire on voters, leaving dozens dead in the carnage.

Namphy later announced he had fired the electoral council, but said that elections would be held and a new president installed by the February 7 deadline set following the ouster of dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier in a popular uprising in February 1986.

It is widely held that the election was derailed by elements wanting to preserve Duvalierism and opponents' fear that Namphy will use the election to impose a president of his choice.

However, the Caribbean leaders in their Miami communique took a softer line to those who blamed Duvalierists and the Army for the massacre, saying that the cancellation of the election could be attributed to as many motives as there were interest groups in Haiti. There was little doubt that some of the problems experienced resulted from the concerns of groups with vested interest

uncertain of the future, while others arose from some of the sensitivities offended in putting in place arrangements for the conduct of the elections, they added.

The violence in Haiti began to rise after the Council, in line with the constitutions approved after Jean-Claude's exile, exempted from the election a dozen candidates who had close connections with either the young Duvalier or his father, Francois Papa Doc Duvalier, during nearly 30 decades of dynastic rule.

The team, calling itself the Concerned Caribbean Leaders group (CCL), is going to Haiti for one-day visit at a time when presidential candidates are forcing a coalition to boycott any election planned by Namphy and build outside pressure for the military to relinquish power.

The government statement made no mention of the CCL meeting any opposition leaders.

Some opposition leaders have called for external intervention, possibly from an Organisation of American States (OAS) force, to drive the Haitian military from office and to restore democracy. However, Seaga,. who like Compton was a prime supporter of the U.S. invasion of Grenada four years ago to oust a leftwing military administration which seized power in a bloody palace coup, is against such intervention in Haiti.

The Jamaica Education Minister Dr Neville Gallimore in a weekend radio talk show, also opposed foreign intervention in Haiti saying it might not be clean surgery and citing the impact it would have on Jamaica's tourism. Although Grenada was a 1,000 miles away in the Eastern Caribbean, the industry here was hurt by the 1983 invasion, he said. He suggested that the impact could be catastrophic in the case of Haiti, Jamaica's close neighbour a little over 100 miles to the north east.

Petit Goave Citizen Criticizes Radio Soleil

FL092311 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Mr Marc Albert Louis from Petit Goave came to Radio Nationale to make a statement regarding a false report broadcast over Radio Soleil. We will have you listen to him.

[Begin Louis recording] This is Marc Albert Louis. I have come here to make a statement against Radio Soleil.

For some time now, Radio Soleil has been sowing panic in Haiti and making false reports to the point where it began attacking people from Petit Goave. We want Radio Soleil to know the people of Petit Goave are not against them. Radio Soleil says it is doing it for the purpose of evangelizing but it seems to have gone astray. Now it is attacking people left and right and directly.

We want everyone who works at Radio Soleil to know the people of Petit Goave have nothing against them. If they instead have something against the population of Petit Goave, it is perhaps because the people of Petit Goave are too honest. We can understand they don't like to see honest people. They would have liked to see the people of Petit Goave involved in things with them.

In last Sunday's elections [as heard], through a direct vote, the church found itself compromised to the point where the priest in Petit Goave was found to have hoarded Hubert de Ronceray's ballots. This means that the church too ended up involved in fraud. We would think that after such an occurrence, the church and Radio Soleil would be more honest, would be ashamed and would adopt a lower profile, wouldn't dare to continue to talk about people. We think this shows a lack of integrity. Radio Soleil should seek to do valid work instead of criticizing people. We think this is dishonest.

We want Radio Soleil to know that the day the Haitian people understand what kind of bad work it was doing in the country, the Haitian people will turn against it. When this happens, I hope Radio Soleil has the courage to take it, and won't say the people were paid to turn against it.

That's what I wanted to say. I won't keep you any longer. But I am telling them this because it is going to happen some day, when the people realize the kind of work Radio Soleil was doing in the country. Because Radio Soleil is always saying it is defending the people but I have never seen this to be true.

I myself can tell you that at a certain moment there was rice rotting (?down there, on their property) at the Petit Seminaire College Saint-Martial. They never gave it to the poor. They threw it away. Since when do they love the poor, the people, that much? So, they are carrying out a particular task. [passage omitted] [end recording]

MDN Sends Letter

FL092225 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Mr Hubert de Ronceray, leader of the Mobilization for National Development [MDN], has made a statement. We will have you listen to his statement in connection with the current situation in Haiti.

[Begin de Ronceray recording, in progress]...a letter that the president of the MDN sent the Episcopal Conference of Haiti [CEH] in Port-au-Prince today, 9 December 1987.

To his excellency Msgr Francois Gayot, president of the CEH:

Monsignor: The unfortunate and regrettable incidents that occurred in Petit Goave on the occasion of the presidential and legislative elections of 29 November 1987 has given us all much cause for reflection and is causing us all many problems.

Our political adversaries were so shocked, the blow was so hard for them, that they reacted without thinking, and said many strange things. They took over Radio Soleil. They said all kinds of things to the MDN and about the MDN.

They accused the MDN and its leader of lying about the priests and of persecuting the church. Instead of trying to correct their wrongdoings, they preferred to fan the flames and create open conflict between the MDN and the population of Petit Goave and the church.

We take this opportunity to remind all the high-ranking authorities of the Catholic Church and of all churches in Haiti that we of the MDN are Christians and believers. We are defenders of the faith and we will not enter at any time into conflict with the church. The MDN is based on truth. Many people still do not or cannot understand this.

We are asking all high-ranking church authorities and the high-ranking authorities of all the other organizations responsible for spreading the church's teachings to make a big effort to understand the MDN and to take a stand as regards the MDN.

By putting a halt to the inclinations of certain priests, of certain clergymen to carry out certain mistaken policies, we are actually helping the church maintain its moral authority, because this authority is necessary to balance Haitian society. We do not think that taking the church and flinging it into leftist extremism is going help the Gospel contribute to the salvation of the Haitian masses.

We invite the diocese of the West to react prudently and to send, as soon as possible, a new parish priest for the parish of Petit Goave. The country requires that we all address ourselves to problems in a constructive manner. Only by so doing can the majority of the people place their trust in us and only in this way can we be worthy of their trust.

Msgr Gayot, I guarantee you I will, within the MDN, do all I can to have things work out well. Yours truly,... [end recording]

That was a letter from Hubert de Ronceray, president of the MDN, to Mgsr Francois Gayot. Thank you.

El Salvador

Duarte Comments on Romero Case, Lopez Nuila

PA092240 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Report by Jose Francisco Espinosa—passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Jose Duarte today gave little importance to the decision of the Supreme Court, which last week ruled in favor of Major D'Aubuisson, who had presented a writ of habeas corpus in the case of Msgr Romero.

This controversial case has once more surfaced after an alleged witness revealed certain events involving ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] leader Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson.

This morning the president inaugurated Construction Week, organized by the Salvadoran Construction Industry Chamber, CASALCO. After the event the president made these statements regarding the murder of the martyred bishop, shot to death on 24 March 1980.

[Duarte] "I understand that this is a right all citizens have, but that does not end the trial by any means; I understand the trial will continue, and the commission will continue to investigate. Extradition has already been sought, and we, of course, have the evidence; therefore, things will move ahead. I believe it is important to tell you all that for me there are three types of justice:

"First, there is moral justice, where there is moral proof and moral conviction that a crime has been committed. The Salvadoran people, I think, are clear that a crime has been committed with the murder of Msgr Romero.

"Second, there is police truth and justice, which is the police investigation to find and reconstruct the crime. We have reconstructed the crime, and we have it clear in our minds how the crime was committed.

"Third, there is legal justice or truth—the legal truth. This is something else. Here one has to prove point by point, and it becomes easy to wiggle out of a legal trial.

"We got as far as the police investigation—legal justice is not up to us; that is up to the judge, the court, and is not up to us.

[Reporter] "What happened to Captain Saravia's extradition to this country?

[Duarte] "We have requested it, but you must remember there are formalities. There is a 60-day period to present evidence in the United States; then the judge, after studying the case, decides if the extradition request is valid or not. Here we have to wait; we cannot rush things."

But in all of this, Colonel Reynaldo Lopez Nuila is mentioned. According to D'Aubuisson, the officer is involved in the crime because in 1980 he was national police director. Amid all this it has been mentioned that the colonel may be removed as deputy security minister; however, Lopez Nuila is going to be transferred to a new post within the Armed Forces, according to President Duarte.

[Duarte] "No, sir, he will not be removed; he will be promoted to the post of minister of the Presidency.

[Reporter] "It is true that many military men have asked for Lopez Nuila's resignation?

[Duarte] "No, that is not true. A while ago there were some observations made by some military men because they thought Col Lopez Nuila was heading the organization we created for the scientific investigation of crimes. But this was not so, and Col Lopez Nuila has nothing to do with it.

[Reporter] "What do you think of Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson's accusation that the national police (?murdered) Msgr Romero.

[Duarte] "I believe he will say anything and will get anyone involved, because this is the way he defends himself; you know how he is. Everytime someone says something and he learns about it, he attacks and insults anyone and turns all these trials into politics. Remember the business of the kidnappings and how he became hysterical looking at ways of shaking off his problem. Remember when he founded the (FAN), and the death squads started in the country; he became hysterical when we told him the first time. So, it is no surprise that he is hysterical once again and is saying so many things."

The president disclosed that the Army initiated a new strategic plan to counter FMLN attacks on cattle ranches.

[Duarte] "We have increased patrols, but just imagine how sad this is—and it is important the Salvadoran people learn of this, on how the guerrillas have been losing. First, they said they represented the people and that they were the people's liberators. Second, they said they had a program to bring about changes to the country. Third, they said they had to attack the Army and defeat it. Fourth, they said people should become terrorists. Now, as nothing has turned out well, they have declared war on the cows. This is really too much. [laughs]

[Reporter] "Mr President, the meeting of Central American presidents is just over 1 month away. President Arias requests assistance from nonsigners of the peace plan. Do you plan any special initiative before you meet?

[Duarte] "I believe that what President Arias was saying is what I have been saying: All five countries should together be able to resolve up to a certain point certain things; however, there are alien forces that are meddling, some that we have asked—some directly, others in general... [changes thought] You will recall that in my speech I specially mentioned Cuba and the USSR. What Arias called stone spectators [expectadores de piedra] are precisely those that, like Cuba, do not want to respond, do not want to help to find peace in the area."

Finally, President Duarte questioned the international aid being given to the unconventional groups operating in El Salvador. He pointed out that this kind of action makes it difficult to find the way to peace.

Ungo Urges Continuation of Talks With Rebels

PA092343 Paris AFP in Spanish 1843 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Caracas, 9 Dec (AFP)—Salvadoran opposition leader Guillermo Ungo has urged President Napoleon Duarte to continue the dialogue with the guerrilla groups because "it will be difficult to attain a democratic opening" in El Salvador if no progress is achieved in the war's deescalation.

Ungo, a Social Democrat and member of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), is in Caracas attending a meeting of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will conclude today.

He said the dialogue between President Duarte's government and the FMLN-FDR, which has so far failed, "cannot be suspended much longer, because the Esquipulas II agreement is a preemptory reality for the heads of state who signed it."

According to Ungo, the agreements achieved at the nunciature in San Salvador should be implemented so the cease-fire commission and the commission "in charge of other topics included in the Esquipulas II agreement" may continue to work "as was agreed upon in Caracas."

"Duarte cannot possibly suspend the dialogue much longer," Ungo insisted, and he reasserted his position about a negotiated peace. He emphasized that the Esquipulas II agreement "is being consolidated as the main instrument for a regional peace."

Ungo also said that a Christmas truce might be declared in El Salvador, adding that the FMLN is willing to do so; however, the government failed to implement a truce on other occasions.

Referring to his personal situation, Guillermo Ungo said that his recent visit to El Salvador "was very brief."

"It would be suicidal to permanently return to El Salvador as long as the government wants to impose an amnesty on us and conditions our presence to a rupture with the FMLN, and as long as the death squads endanger our lives," he said.

Nicaragua

Communique on Santo Domingo Meeting

PA091634 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Dec 87 pp 1, 12

[Press communique issued in Managua on 5 December]

[Text] The first round of mediated talks between the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], which exchanged views indirectly through His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, took place on 3 and 4 December in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic. There was agreement on the following points:

1. The two sides have already designated the corresponding negotiating commissions, which assumed their duties on the abovementioned dates.

2. The two sides accepted His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo as mediator and have reaffirmed this choice.

3. The two sides want peace in Nicaragua to avoid further bloodshed among Nicaraguan brothers.

4. The two sides accept the Esquipulas II agreement.

5. The two sides wish to achieve a cease-fire.

6. The two sides wish to accelerate the negotiating process to achieve a cease-fire in the immediate term to avoid the death of 50 to 60 Nicaraguan youths per day.

7. The two sides agree that technical measures must be emphasized to ensure an effective cease-fire.

8. The two sides agree that the mediator should enjoy absolute freedom in selecting his own advisers.

9. The two sides want to make a decision on the place and date of upcoming meetings as soon as possible.

It was evident there are major differences regarding the motivations and ways to achieve a cease-fire and regarding the interpretation of the Esquipulas II agreement.

On 3 and 4 December His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo proposed a temporary truce during observance of the Immaculate Conception, Christmas and new year preparations, and the Lord's Epiphany. He suggested the following:

I. Implementing:

—General amnesty

—Freedom of speech

—Lifting the state of emergency;

II. Designating a period for a temporary truce;

III. Suggesting a deadline for the two sides to establish a cease-fire; and

IV. Offering the participation of the Nicaraguan Bishops Conference as guarantor, verifier, and overseer of compliance with the proposed conditions.

The Nicaraguan Resistance's delegation accepted Cardinal Obando y Bravo's proposal.

The Nicaraguan Government's delegation, after consulting with the Managua government, said that it would accept the proposal if the following terms were added:

1. An end to aid to the Nicaraguan Resistance; and

2. That the Nicaraguan Resistance stop using the territories of other Central American countries to attack government forces.

For its part, the Nicaraguan Resistance's delegation said it would accept the inclusions of the two points proposed by the Nicaraguan Government if that government, in turn, begins an irreversible democratization process based on the points contained in the Nicaraguan Resistance's original proposal.

Mediator Cardinal Obando y Bravo urged the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan Resistance to agree to the following:

1. To be more flexible about their positions.

2. To agree to a temporary truce and to the respective cease-fire as soon and as simply as possible.

3. To agree to have the Nicaraguan Government and the RN delegations sit face-to-face to negotiate a truce—with or without Cardinal Obando y Bravo as mediator-moderator at the meetings—for the sake of speed.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo wishes to reiterate his thanks to the distinguished Dominican Republic Government for having lent its territory for this meeting, as well as for the kind courtesies extended during the meetings, which are also extended to the Episcopal Conference of the Dominican Republic through His Eminence Nicolas de Jesus Lopez, archbishop of Santo Domingo and primate of America.

Managua, 5 December 1987

Ortega on U.S.-USSR Summit, Disarmament

PA091745 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1516 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Statement by President Daniel Ortega during "Face the People" program at a meeting between Ortega, Foreign Minister D'Escoto, Reinaldo Antonio Tefel, Social Security and Welfare Institute minister, and a visiting delegation of the Geneva-based World Leadership Council, composed of the World Church Council, the Latin American Church Council, and the National Church of Christ Council; in Managua—live, monitored in progress]

[Text] ...this is the starting point for total disarmament to become a reality so that the actions of peoples and the reasoning of rulers help us take greater steps in that direction.

This is how we view this meeting. We believe this is a very positive meeting, in which a seed is planted under very complex circumstances because it could be a contradiction of the fact that while agreements are being reached on intermediate- and short-range missiles, the United States continues with its Star Wars project, through which it sends weapons into space. If steps like these were not taking place, however, the danger to mankind's security would be much greater.

As I said last night, the mobilization of the European people, who have endured two wars—World War II, in particular, which is fresh in their minds—has definitely expressed that no one wants another war.

The European people have protested the most against the arms race. In the United States, also, there has been increasing interest in taking steps toward disarmament. The consensus reached by the USSR and the United States regarding intermediate- and short-range missiles, I repeat, is a starting point for later steps. It continues the cornerstone of the effort to achieve disarmament.

As I explained to you, I, Foreign Minister D'Escoto, and Social Security Minister Reinaldo Antonio Tefel are at your disposal to answer your questions, to converse with you, to talk, and to exchange points of view regarding all the issues you may consider advantageous to discuss. I am very interested at this time in an in-depth discussion to bring you up-to-date on what the Esquipulas peace plan is all about. However, before beginning this discussion I would like you to express your views.

National Dialogue Meeting Postponed

PA100310 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Communique issued by the Information and Press Office of the Presidency of the Republic in Managua on 9 December]

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic's Information and Press Office hereby reports that:

1. Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, representative of the president of the Republic at the national dialogue, taking into consideration the constitutional amendments proposed by Dr Rodrigo Reyes in the name of the parties and political organizations participating in the national dialogue, on 1 December requested 15 days to reply to this proposal because of its importance and because of the care with which proposed constitutional amendments have to be analyzed and revised.

2. At that time the government delegation proposed to the parties and political organizations that they discuss the second point of the national dialogue agenda in order to keep the dialogue moving. No consensus was reached on this proposal, but the parties decided to wait for the government's reply to the proposal to amend the Nicaraguan Constitution.

3. Therefore, the government hereby suspends the meeting originally scheduled for tomorrow, 10 December, and requests that the parties and political organizations participating in the national dialogue meet at 0900 local time on Tuesday, 15 December, when the deadline requested by the government to reply to the proposed constitutional amendments will expire.

Managua, 9 December 1987

The Presidency of the Republic's Information and Press Office

Arce on Contra Lack of Territorial Control

PA091506 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Caracas—The contras do not control a single inch of Nicaraguan territory, Nicaraguan Commander Bayardo Arce has stated in this capital. He said Managua is willing to participate in a dialogue but noted that Nicaragua can yield no more as long as the United States maintains its policy of support for the contras.

Commander Arce spoke to newsmen during a break in the Socialist International-Social Democratic parties meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, to which he was invited.

In response to a question about Nicaragua as a possible subject to be discussed during the summit being held in Washington by the top leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States, Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, respectively, Arce said jokingly: They can talk about Nicaragua, AIDS, or Madonna, but it is we who must make decisions on the problems of Central America and the future of the region.

He added that this summit meeting is an example of how the two countries involved are looking after their interests. This is what the Latin Americans should do, he noted.

Returning to the contra subject, Arce said the counterrevolutionaries do not control a single inch of Nicaraguan territory. The map they are showing around, he said, does not reflect the true situation. He pointed out: They carry out incursions from Honduras.

Military Intelligence Chief on Contra 'Lies'

PA091825 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The lies of the counterrevolutionary facade leadership managed by the Reagan administration became evident during events honoring the Virgin Mary when counterrevolutionaries carried out criminal activities that produced four dead and seven wounded. This statement was made by EPS Military Intelligence Chief Ricardo Wheelock Roman. The officer has announced that counterrevolutionary bands have carried out four ambushes in the past 48 hours and suffered five dead at the hands of the townspeople of the attacked towns. One of the attacked places was a Nicaraguan Coffee Enterprise agency in Wiwili, approximately 50 km north of Matagalpa. The attack caused millions in property damage.

This makes evident once again that contra announcements are just propaganda, that the contra facade leadership says one thing and the contra bands do the exact opposite, Maj Wheelock said in a statement to Radio Sandino.

We have a news bulletin from the Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Office that confirms that at 0100 on 8 December, a counterrevolutionary group carried out operations on the outskirts of La Libertad, 22 km northwest of Juigalpa, Chontales Department. As a result of this, one civilian died, another was wounded, and another four were kidnapped. Dead is 8 year-old Ana Victoria Montiel. The wounded civilian is 60-year-old Rito Cruz.

This bulletin was issued in Managua on 8 December 1987.

Argentina

Alfonsin Stops in Brazil En Route to Italy

PY091826 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Excerpts] President Raul Alfonsin arrived in Rome at 1110 local time, 0710 Argentine time, beginning a 7-day visit to Italy, where he will meet his counterpart, Francesco Cossiga.

The Boeing 707 TC-91 [as heard] plane that took Alfonsin from Buenos Aires to Rome made a stopover in Recife, Brazil. In Rome, the plane landed at Ciampino Airport, where Alfonsin was welcomed by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and by Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputto, who arrived there from New York yesterday. [passage omitted]

During the stopover in Recife, Alfonsin said that the Argentine position toward its foreign debt is delicate. He said that the government maintains that interest rates cannot be higher than 4 percent, and that the creditors must agree to a reduction in the real value of the debt.

Alfonsin also said that creditors must give up protectionist and subsidy policies that restrict our possibilities for selling products abroad.

Alfonsin denied that there was any possibility of declaring a joint moratorium with the other Latin American countries. He said that, regarding the debt, each country has its own policy, on a bilateral basis. He added that there is, however, the common philosophy that joint efforts are needed to make the problem understood.

Talks on Special Treaty

For reportage on the visit to Italy by President Raul Alfonsin, including talks leading up to a treaty establishing a "special associative relationship" between the two countries, see the Italy & Vatican City section of the 10 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

CGT Claims 98 Percent Support of Stoppage

PY100152 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Many major industrial centers, much of the public administration sector, and, to a lesser degree, the retail stores and banks today observed the 2d day of the 34-hour stoppage organized by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] to demand changes in the government's socioeconomic policy.

The strike, which began yesterday with a rally at San Justo, where CGT leader Saul Ubaldini spoke, and will continue until midnight, was observed without major incidents today.

In a communique issued this afternoon, the CGT asserted that 98 percent of the workers throughout the country had supported the stoppage called for yesterday and today within the framework of its struggle plan announced on 4 November.

Heavy Water Leak Reported in Nuclear Plant

PY100231 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2324 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Cordoba, 9 Dec (DYN)—It was officially reported today that there have been three consecutive leaks of several tons of heavy water containing radioactive material into the waters of Embalse Rio Tercero. This was disclosed to the local media by biologist Raul Montenegro, under secretary of the environment of the Cordoba provincial government.

Montenegro said that a "group of honorary defenders of the environment of Rio Tercero" sent him "a note stating that there was a small heavy water leak at the Embalse Nuclear Plant."

Montenegro added that "in light of this information, the under secretariat requested information from the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA), which provided details on similar leaks in 1986 and 1987."

Montenegro said: "Heavy water is a nonradioactive material that is used in the primary circuit of the central cooling unit, which contains approximately 160 tons of heavy water."

He pointed out, however, "that the water and circuit are not completely isolated from what happens in the heart of the reactor; therefore, the water always contains some radioactive material."

Montenegro said that "when water leaks from the secondary circuit and goes to the tertiary circuit, which is the drainage into the waters of Embalse Rio Tercero, there is some leakage of radioactive material into the lake."

Montenegro added that from 17 February to 16 March 1986 "there was a heavy water leak in one of the pipes in steam generator No 3 at the Embalse Nuclear Power Plant," that "from late February to mid-March 1986 the leak ranged from 1.32 kg to 7.95 kg of heavy water per hour, and that, at that time, the CNEA reported that the leak remained below the discharge limit [limite de descarga] allowed by the operational license."

Montenegro stressed that "the largest amount of radioactive discharge (into the lake) was 23.6 percent of the limit authorized under the nuclear power plant's operational license," that "this radioactive discharge occurred on 15 March 1986, and that the damaged pipe was subsequently repaired."

Montenegro reported that the second leak occurred in mid-1987 "as a result of a punctured pipe in the steam generator, which caused the leakage of 790 kg of heavy water."

In this case, Montenegro said, the CNEA "stated that the yearly discharge limit had not been exceeded, either."

Montenegro emphasized that "the dissemination of this data is a break from the traditional secrecy surrounding nuclear activities." He said, however, that "there is a long way to go," and "we must never forget that the emission of radioactive material into the environment—even at internationally approved levels—represents a biological risk that must be known by the public."

Brazil

Sarney Hails U.S.-Soviet Disarmament Moves

PY100222 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] President Jose Sarney today hailed the initiative by the United States and the Soviet Union in the area of nuclear disarmament. When receiving the year-end greetings from the diplomatic corps, Sarney affirmed that the step taken by the two major powers is a great gesture because all men live in fear of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons.

The president added that disarmament is a prerequisite for lasting peace and therefore, everyone must encourage any effort by the two great powers toward that end.

On behalf of all foreign ambassadors serving in Brazil, the Apostolic Nuncio, Dom Carlos Furnica, expressed the hope that Brazil will have the necessary courage to face whatever the new year may bring. He also voiced hopes that Brazil will continue to make a contribution to universal brotherhood.

Official Cited on Consultations With U.S.

PY091212 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Itamaraty Secretary General Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima has said that the U.S. Government will have to agree to a Brazilian request for consultations concerning the threats of economic retaliation against the Brazilian computer market law. Brazil submitted a request for consultation to the GATT on 27 November, in compliance with GATT rules, for the solution of this controversy. Flecha de Lima and U.S. trade representative Clayton Yeutter discussed the issue in Geneva last week.

Chilean Refugees Vow To Remain in UN Office

PY092359 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The chief of the office of the UN High Commissioner for South America, Elias Selemil, whose office is located in Rio de Janeiro, today talked for 2 hours with the Chilean refugees who are occupying his office. After this talk, Selemil reported that he has nothing to offer the 22 Chileans who took refuge in his office, because the United Nations respects the sovereignty of countries before it decides whether it can grant asylum to refugees. He nevertheless affirmed that the United Nations will continue to negotiate until a solution to this problem is reached.

The spokesman for the refugees, Manuel Abarca, reaffirmed that the group will remain in the UN office regardless of the consequences. He said the group will only agree to be transferred to a country that does not border Chile or Brazil. [passage omitted]

Commercial Airline Resumes Flights to Cuba

PY091810 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1518 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Sao Paulo, 9 Dec (EFE)—The Brazilian commercial airline "VASP" [Sao Paulo Airlines] will begin "charter" flights to Havana on 11 December, VASP authorities reported today.

"VASP" will be the first Brazilian airline to land in Havana since diplomatic relations between Brazil and Cuba were resumed on 25 June 1986, after having been suspended for 22 years.

"VASP" resumed its flights to Cuba as a result of an agreement VASP signed with the Brazilian travel agency "Unic Travel" and with the Cuban travel agency "Cubatour."

Sixteen "charter" flights have been initially scheduled between Sao Paulo and Havana.

According to travel sector businessmen, approximately 2 million Brazilians visited Cuba in 1986, traveling on other international airlines.

Brazilian and Cuban airline authorities expect that, with the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries, commerical exchanges and tourism will improve.

PRC Official Discusses Building Satellite

PY032353 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Brazil and the PRC might build a satellite to be used by the two countries for the remote monitoring of natural resources. This was discussed during the meeting today between Science and Technology Minister Luiz

Henriquez da Silveira and PRC Aeronautics Vice Minister Gao Zhenning. Brazil would finance 30 percent of the cost of the satellite, estimated at $127 million.

During the meeting the two countries agreed to step up trade in space technolgy, with purchases to be paid for with merchandise.

The PRC minister, who heads a mission of nine persons, was also received by acting Foreign Minister Ronaldo Costa. Tomorrow the PRC minister is scheduled to meet with General Paulo Roberto Coutinho Camarinha, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff.

Coffee Production, Consumption Figures Given
PY092325 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] By the end of this year, Brazil will have exported to member countries of the International Coffee Organization 18 millions bags of coffee, up from 12 million last year. The information was provided today by the president of the Coffee Industry Union of Sao Paulo State, (Ladimar do Paiolo), who assessed this year's coffee production.

[Begin (Paiolo) recording] We produced nearly 40 million bags, although official announcements put the production figure at only 35-36.5 million bags. However, we are sure that total production will reach from 35 to 40 million bags. [end recording]

The Coffee Industry Union has initiated the first stage of a nationwide campaign to increase domestic coffee consumption, which has already increased by 8 percent over last year's level of 5 million bags. (Paiolo) expressed the opinion that this figure still represents a decline in domestic consumption, because 2 years ago, Brazil consumed 9 million bags of coffee per year.